

SPEAKING OF MUSIC AT THE EXPLORATORIUM

With human perception as its central theme, the Exploratorium has always used the insights of both scientists and artists to establish notions of how one sees, knows and understands the world.

The Exploratorium's Speaking of Music Series is one of many programs here that seeks to discover why things are the way they are: how an artist, as well as a scientist, or oneself, probes, investigates, interprets nature and makes decisions.

As with everything else at the Exploratorium, participation is the key, so we encourage you to ask questions of our guests.

JOHN CAGE My Opera Europera Thursday 8 January 1987 8:00 PM

The Exploratorium celebrates John Cage's 75th year with an evening of conversation about the most recent work of one of the greatest composers of the century. Born September 5, 1912, in Los Angeles, Mr. Cage studied with pianist Richard Buhlig and composers Adolph Weiss, Henry Cowell and Arnold Schoenberg. In 1938 he invented the prepared piano and began his long creative association with dancer Merce Cunningham in Seattle, Washington. In 1940 he moved to San Francisco, giving concerts of percussion music with Lou Harrison. By 1943 he had made New York City his permanent home--it was there, after study with zen master Daisetz Suzuki and developed his method of composing by chance operations--a method which has taken numerous guises over the past three decades.

Tonight Mr. Cage will discuss his major new project for the Frankfurt Opera--the November 1987 world premiere of Europeras 1 & 2 which takes a revolutionary approach to that traditional medium. A sampling of his recent music will include Music for . . ., and Essay, a computer-generated speech piece.

Tonight's event is being recorded for broadcast over KPFA FM/94.

Upcoming events for the remainder of the Winter/Spring 1987 Speaking of Music season will feature live music performances as well as discussion. San Francisco composer Charles Boone will be present in two weeks on January 22nd. Guitarist-improviser Fred Frith appears on February 26th. György Ligeti will be present on March 12th--his recent Grawemeyer Award concert at the University of Louisville will be broadcast on KPFA January 15th, 9:00am, on the Morning Concert. And Lois V Vierk will visit from New York, along with the virtuoso avant-garde accordionist Guy Klucevsek on April 23rd.

PRODUCED AND HOSTED BY CHARLES AMIRKHANIAN

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Speaking of Music has been an ongoing presentation of the Exploratorium since 1972.